



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: August 21, 2012
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Community-Based Eligibility Worker Program - For the fourth year in a row, the City of Fredericksburg Department of Social Services (FDSS) has been awarded a grant from Mary Washington Healthcare's Community Services fund to continue to operate the Community-Based Eligibility Worker (CBEW) program. The CBEW program's goal is to increase access to the Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP) by placing an eligibility worker in the field at participating partner locations. Current partner locations include: Micah Ecumenical Ministries, the Thurman Brisben Center, the Lloyd Moss Free Clinic, the Community Health Center of the Rappahannock region, the Fredericksburg Christian Health Center, and the Virginia Employment Commission.

Increasing access to these programs improves the overall health of the community, reduces the burden on health care providers that serve the uninsured, and supports the local economy. The CBEW also serves as a critical liaison to other community resources and assists customers in maintaining their benefits by facilitating renewals. The program has exceeded its goals in each of the years it has operated, and last year was no exception. At the end of the FY2012 grant period, enrollment in the SNAP program exceeded program goals by 14% and enrollment in the Medicaid program exceeded program goals by 34%. FDSS is able to provide this program through a combination of federal funding, support from Mary Washington Healthcare's Community Services fund, partner organization funding, and a small amount of local funding.

W.L. Harris Park - Upgrades to the W.L. Harris Park in the Mayfield Subdivision are underway. Two new park benches have been installed, existing park benches and basketball posts have been repainted, four new picnic tables have been placed under the shelter, and an unstable cedar tree has been removed. Along with these improvements, a new aluminum fence is scheduled to be installed in the coming weeks along Tyler and Glover Streets, with two entrances on each side of the park, and research has begun into the possibility of replacing the playground structure and swings. The City has been working with the Mayfield Civic Association to make sure that all improvements are acceptable.

Gordon Cemetery - Restoration work has begun in [Gordon Cemetery](#), located at the corner of Washington Avenue and Pitt Street. Numerous headstones in the cemetery are damaged and have been disturbed, some significantly. Preservationist David Via comes to the City with excellent credentials and a lifetime of headstone and historic structure restoration. Working in the 1990's for the Kenmore Foundation, he wrote a monograph on the contents and status of the Gordon Cemetery. He is excited to return to Fredericksburg to undertake this project. Restoration of the Gordon Cemetery will continue through October.

Public Facilities Energy Retrofit - The City's energy savings partner, Siemens Technologies, has been awarded two energy saving projects at two facilities. The Police Department's HVAC system will be retrofitted to take advantage of free cooling when outside temperatures fall to certain levels. This retrofit will allow the outside air to cool the building instead of the chillers. Zones will be set in the Apogee automation system to allow scheduling to reflect actual occupancy of the building. Occupancy sensors will also be installed to control lighting. The estimated annual savings will be \$11,204 with a payback period for the project of 3.8 years.

The Executive Plaza's HVAC system will be automated to allow scheduling of the HVAC system for occupancy and nighttime adjustment of temperature settings. The annual savings of this retrofit is estimated at \$17,336 with a payback period of 2.6 years.

Courthouse Project Update - Demolition of the old Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court building has started and should be completed in the next week to allow for the next stage of the Court complex project to begin. Upon completion of the demolition, an archaeological evaluation of the site will be conducted. Remediation of hazardous materials has been completed at the rear of the Visitor Center to allow for construction of the new Public Restrooms.

Department of Social Services to Host Child-Parent Attachment Course - The Fredericksburg Department of Social Services will host a training class for adoptive families, the Child-Parent Attachment Parent Course, starting on September 12. The 10-week course is available, free of charge, to any parent who has adopted a child from foster care. The course will be taught by Dr. William F. Whelan, PSy.D, Co-Director of the Mary Ainsworth Attachment Clinic. The Mary Ainsworth Attachment clinic is affiliated with the University of Virginia and provides evaluation, intervention-planning, and intervention-consultation for children from birth through adolescence who have experienced significant challenges or disruptions to their relationships and/or attachment bonds with their parents or other caregivers.

Attachment Disorder is a behavioral disorder caused by the lack of an emotionally secure attachment to a caregiver in the first two years of life and is characterized by an inability to form healthy relationships. Attachment disorder is very prevalent in foster children and affects nearly all of them to some degree.

The Child-Parent Attachment course typically costs \$1,000 per participant, but the City is fortunate to be able to provide this important training to families through funding from the Virginia Department of Social Services.